

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MANAGU 03321 251929Z

44

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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O 251845Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7820

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANAGUA 3321

EXDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, NU

SUBJECT: GON REACTION TO JACK ANDERSON SERIES

1. ON AUGUST 22, DURING MY PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS CEREMONY, PRESIDENT SOMOZA EXPRESSED TO ME HIS DEEP CONCERN ABOUT THE SERIES OF ANTI-SOMOZA ARTICLES RECENTLY PUBLISHED BY JACK ANDERSON.

2. IN PARTICULAR PRESIDENT SOMOZA WAS UPSET ABOUT ANDERSON'S ALLEGATION THAT HE HAD OBTAINED "SECRET U.S. GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS" ABOUT THE PRESIDENT. HE TOLD ME THAT HE WAS WORRIED ABOUT THE APPARENT INABILITY OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT TO MAINTAIN THE CONFIDENTIALITY OF INFORMATION IT ACQUIRES ABOUT OTHER GOVERNMENTS. HE SAID THAT HE UNDERSTANDS ALL GOVERNMENTS MUST OBTAIN INFORMATION ABOUT HEADS OF STATE, BUT THIS INFORMATION MUST NOT BE ALLOWED TO LEAK OUT. IT CAN LEAD TO SERIOUS DAMAGE IN RELATIONS WITH FRIENDLY GOVERNMENTS.

3. IN A SUBSEQUENT CONVERSATION WITH AMBASSADOR GUILLERMO SEVILLA SACASA ON AUGUST 23 THE SAME MESSAGE WAS CONVEYED TO ME. THE AMBASSADOR SAID THAT PRESIDENT SOMOZA WAS CONSIDERING LEGAL ACTION BUT THAT HE FELT IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO BRING A SUCCESSFUL LIBEL SUIT AGAINST ANDERSON. THE PRESIDENT WAS VERY UNHAPPY AND HURT BY ATTACKS EMANATING FROM A COUNTRY WHICH HE CONSIDERS A FRIENDLY ONE.

4. I TOLD BOTH PRESIDENT SOMOZA AND AMBASSADOR SEVILLA SACASA THAT THE ANDERSON ARTICLES WERE MOST UNFORTUNATE, BUT THAT WE HAVE

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NO WAY OF KNOWING WHAT, IF ANY, SO-CALLED SECRET US GOVERNMENT

DOCUMENTS HAVE FALLEN INTO ANDERSON'S HANDS. I ALSO EMPHASIZED THAT JACK ANDERSON HAS SOMETHING OF A CREDIBILITY PROBLEM IN THE UNITED STATES, AND THAT IT WOULD BE BEST NOT TO OVERREACT TO THIS INCIDENT.

5. IT WOULD BE APPRECIATED IF THE DEPARTMENT WENT OUT OF ITS WAY TO REASSURE AMBASSADOR SEVILLA SACASA THAT EVERY PRE-CAUTION IS TAKEN TO MAINTAIN CONFIDENTIALITY OF THE INFORMATION WE ACQUIRE, AND TO STRESS THAT ANY SUSPICION PRESIDENT SOMOZA MIGHT ENTERTAIN THAT US GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS WERE DELIBERATELY LEAKED TO EMBARRASS HIM IS COMPLETELY UNFOUNDED.  
THEBERGE

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## Message Attributes

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**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, POLITICAL SITUATION  
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**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**TAGS:** PFOR, PINT, NU, (ANDERSON, JACK)  
**To:** STATE  
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